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Chairman: Mr. Baja ..... (Philippines)
later: Ms. Ramoutar (Vice-Chairman) ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

Contents

Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 156: Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/58/37 and Corr.1, A/58/116 and Add.1 and A/C.6/58/L.10)

1. **Mr. Perera** (Sri Lanka), Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 and of the Working Group on measures to eliminate international terrorism, introduced the reports of those bodies (A/58/37 and A/C.6/58/L.10, respectively).

2. At the first meeting of the Working Group, he had invited delegations to approach him with concrete proposals regarding the convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Several delegations had informed him that consultations on that question were continuing, including at the political level, in their capitals, and, in the light of General Assembly resolution 57/27, had expressed the wish that the item should remain on the agenda.

3. Informal consultations had demonstrated the persistence of substantial differences concerning article 18 on exclusions from the scope of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Agreement on that article would facilitate agreement on other issues, including article 2 bis on the relationship between the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the sectoral conventions. Delegations had also reiterated their diverse positions on the question of the scope of application of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. He urged delegations to pursue every avenue leading to a possible compromise on those issues and thanked those which had presented proposals directed towards such a compromise.

4. Despite fundamental differences, there was a general desire to preserve the achievements of both the Ad Hoc Committee and the Working Group. There was a clear need for delegations to remain engaged during and after the current session of the General Assembly and to demonstrate a spirit of compromise and political will. In order to maintain the momentum of that process, to which all delegations were committed, the Committee and other bodies so mandated by the General Assembly must continue to discharge in a constructive manner the legislative functions entrusted to them.

5. **Mr. Løvald** (Norway) said that international terrorism challenged the common security agenda; only two months previously, the United Nations had been the victim of a heinous attack that had left many wounded and several dead, including Sergio Vieira de Mello, High Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative of the Secretary-General. The international community owed it to the victims of all terrorist attacks to make every effort to prevent such atrocities.

6. International terrorism was a global threat that required a global response. The United Nations should take the lead in that effort, but regional organizations could also play a vital role, in particular by assisting the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Combating terrorism might involve a broad range of political, diplomatic, economic, legal and military measures which must be fully consistent with international law, including the protection of human rights. The High Commissioner for Human Rights should therefore follow closely the work of the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which, through its dialogue with States, helped them to identify and overcome obstacles to the implementation of resolution 1373 (2001). Norway had supported the counter-terrorism measures of the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Council of Europe.

7. He called for a broad, enhanced strategy involving the United Nations, political and religious leaders, the private sector and civil society. The conference, "Fighting Terrorism for Humanity", held in New York on 22 September 2003 on the initiative of the Prime Minister of Norway and Nobel Laureate Elie Wiesel, had highlighted the need to understand the root causes of hatred and terrorism; the final report of that event would be submitted to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and a follow-up conference was planned.

8. Failed States and repressive regimes often bred hate, extremism and terror, but there appeared to be little, if any, connection between poverty and terrorism; many terrorists were from middle or upper class families. Terrorism could best be combated by guaranteeing the rule of law and respect for human rights and providing outlets not only for human

ambition, hopes and beliefs, but also for anger and grief. Desires, aims and anger were often expressed in religious terms, extremists perverted religious language to justify atrocities and religious leaders had too often failed to raise their voices against intolerance and extremism. Moreover, countless children were being raised in an atmosphere of hatred, intolerance and failure to respect human rights; education in tolerance and mutual respect should be part of the counter-terrorism campaign.

9. States should not allow their differences on the definition of terrorism to impede work on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism; in particular, the risk of terrorist groups gaining access to weapons of mass destruction could not be overstated.

10. **Mr. Balarezo** (Peru), speaking on behalf of the Rio Group, said that the recent death of distinguished United Nations officials was a reminder that anyone could become a victim of a criminal terrorist act. The international community must continue its efforts to develop a multilateral, comprehensive system of legal instruments in a global strategy against terrorism so that those who committed, planned or financed terrorist acts could be brought to justice; such a strategy must be implemented with full respect for the rule of law and human rights.

11. At its May 2003 summit in Cusco, Peru, the Rio Group had expressed its commitment to strengthening cooperation in the fight against terrorism and the related problems of illegal narcotics, money-laundering and illegal weapons trafficking and to increasing the flow of information in order to prevent terrorist acts and the financing thereof. The Inter-American Convention against Terrorism had recently entered into force and the Organization of American States (OAS) had organized a meeting in Washington the previous week as follow-up to the Counter-Terrorism Committee's special meeting with international, regional and subregional organizations, held in New York in March 2003.

12. Each country had a responsibility in the fight against terrorism; however, the scope and legitimacy of the United Nations gave it the leading role in protecting humanity from that threat. The Rio Group was concerned at the lack of political will to make substantive progress on the two draft counter-terrorism conventions and at the attempt to establish an unnecessary link between them; the risk of terrorists obtaining nuclear weapons was so great that no opportunity to reach agreement on that issue should be lost. He therefore welcomed the Mexican proposal (A/C.6/56/WG.1/CRP.9) regarding a new paragraph under article 4 of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, which offered a creative, constructive way out of the current impasse. He also urged the coordinators to organize consultations between the main session and the resumed session of the General Assembly in order to resolve the few remaining issues regarding the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism; the death of Sergio Vieira de Mello and the other victims of terrorism was a call to action in that regard.

13. **Mr. Alcalay** (Venezuela) said that counter-terrorism had become an important foreign policy issue for his Government, which was actively involved in efforts to combat that problem at the national and international levels. Venezuela had ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict and had submitted reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) concerning Al-Qaida and the Taliban and associated individuals and entities. His Government was also actively involved in regional counter-terrorism efforts and had recently incorporated the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism into its national legislation. The media had misrepresented Venezuela's commitment to counter-terrorism, but his Government's actions spoke for themselves.

14. National, subregional and regional action would be incomplete without a similar effort at the international level. Recent events had shown that States could not combat terrorist attacks unless they had the political will to adopt, as quickly as possible, the draft conventions which would establish a legal basis for international cooperation. It was also essential to eliminate the causes of terrorism, namely poverty and marginalization. Lastly, he paid a tribute to the memory of Sergio Vieira de Mello and the other victims of terrorism.

15. **Mr. Al-Marzooqi** (United Arab Emirates) said that, despite the international counter-terrorism conventions and agreements of the past decade, recent years had seen an escalation in the number and seriousness of such crimes. Institutionalized terrorism struck at innocent victims of all races and ethnic groups, as seen by the recent attacks on United Nations staff who were in Baghdad for the sole purpose of helping the Iraqi people return to a normal life.

16. Since the events of 11 September 2001, terrorists had struck in Europe, Africa and the Middle East, including Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the occupied territories. Regardless of the culture or religion of the persons responsible, terrorism was based on xenophobia, fundamentalism and rejection of multilateralism and of the right to self-determination. He therefore urged the international community to combat that problem with transparency and to avoid the use of double standards.

17. An international conference should be organized to address the need for a clear definition of terrorism, strengthen the relevant legislation and ensure that counter-terrorism measures were not applied selectively and that a distinction was made between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination, a right embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in international conventions and protocols.

18. Respect for the freedom of peoples was embodied in Shariah law. His Government had consistently condemned terrorism in international and regional forums and had adopted legislation and political mechanisms to combat terrorism, including implementation of the relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions. It had taken steps to prevent the financing of terrorism and to criminalize acts of terrorism and money-laundering; worked with its neighbours and other relevant States and international organizations to combat cross-border crime; and ratified international counter-terrorism instruments, including the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, the Protocol on the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation and the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection.

19. The United Arab Emirates condemned the organized State terrorism of the Government of Israel against the Palestinian and Arab peoples in occupied Palestine, Syria and Lebanon and rejected Israel's acts and allegations, which violated the Charter and international conventions. Effective measures should be taken immediately in order to halt Israel's attacks on the Palestinian people and its neighbours; only if it withdrew from the occupied territories and demonstrated respect for international law could a lasting solution to the crisis in the Middle East be found.

20. **Mr. Rodríguez Parilla** (Cuba) said that his Government was committed to curbing international terrorism and utterly rejected terrorist acts of all kinds, no matter where they were committed, by whom, or whatever the reason for them was. His country had never allowed its territory to be used for planning, financing or carrying out such acts. The struggle against terrorism should not, however, be used as a pretext for meddling in the internal affairs of other States, or for aggression. Terrorism had to be fought by the international community as a whole and since that entailed close cooperation and compliance with the Charter of the United Nations and with international law and international humanitarian law, it was for the General Assembly to lead the battle.

21. It was essential to adopt a general convention on international terrorism that would fill the gaps in existing United Nations instruments on the subject. A general convention should contain a precise definition covering all forms, types and elements of the crime of terrorism and should provide for the possibility of holding natural and legal persons responsible for it. Acts of a State's armed forces which were contrary to international humanitarian law should not be excluded from the ambit of the convention, since such an omission might be seen as justification for some States to take action to destabilize others.

22. While the third world countries were right in asking that a general convention should draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples for independence and the right to self-determination, the right to self-defence should not be used as an excuse to justify acts of State terrorism or interference in the internal affairs of other States. No mischievous distinction masking the seriousness or criminal nature of such acts should be made.

23. The practice engaged in by some States of unilaterally issuing lists of countries which allegedly supported international terrorism was inconsistent with the principles of international law and the Charter of the United Nations and was motivated purely by political considerations. The inclusion of Cuba in the annual list of sponsors of international terrorism issued by the United States of America was absurd and had been prompted by domestic policy and devious electoral motives.

24. Since 1959, the Cuban people had been the victim of numerous terror attacks which had killed and injured thousands and caused enormous economic damage. It was well known that those attacks had been organized, financed and launched from the territory of the United States, where various terrorist organizations were allowed to operate against Cuba with total impunity. Furthermore, a federal court in Miami had unjustly punished three Cuban citizens after they had been held incommunicado and subjected to inhuman treatment for 17 months. They were completely innocent of the crimes with which they had been charged and had merely been trying to save the lives of Cuban and United States citizens by gathering information about the terrorist organizations he had just mentioned. The United States violation of emigration agreements, anti-Cuban radio broadcasts from its territory and the failure of its venal courts to sentence the hijackers of Cuban ships and aircraft had been the direct cause of the terrorist acts committed in Cuba in March and April 2003. For that reason, his Government had had no alternative but to apply Cuban law with the utmost rigour in order to halt a wave of hijackings which the European Union had termed acts against the security of Cuba. The recent severe sentences passed on one hijacker by a United States court and the return to Cuba of a further six were to be welcomed, since cooperation coupled with respect for and implementation of legal instruments was the only path holding any promise. Nevertheless, the United States Government had employed spurious arguments to reject Cuba's repeated proposals concerning a bilateral programme to combat terrorism.

25. His Government had taken legal and administrative steps to prevent, detect and punish acts of terrorism and other associated international crimes. It had ratified or acceded to all the international conventions on terrorism. It had passed a Law on Acts of Terrorism which defined and punished acts of terrorism that were committed via the information media. The Bank of Cuba had issued several instructions and resolutions to forestall money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. The customs authorities and the Ministry of the Interior had taken steps to strengthen border controls in order to prevent terrorists entering the national territory.

26. His Government had complied fully with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and had provided the Counter-Terrorism Committee with all the requisite reports. It therefore hoped that that Committee would take definite steps to fight terrorism and to act on the voluminous evidence his country had supplied regarding the organization and financing of terrorist acts against Cuba from the United States. His Government had further entered into bilateral counter-terrorism agreements with various other countries. The international community should implement measures to combat terrorism without applying double standards.

27. **Mr. Ong** (Singapore) said that the events of 11 September 2001 had opened the world's eyes to new and previously unthinkable dimensions of terrorism and had created an awareness that terrorism knew no boundaries and that every country was vulnerable to it. The international community should not allow horrific acts of terrorism to paralyse it with fear; on the contrary, it should work to eradicate that scourge.

28. South-east Asia had been forced to come to terms with the ever-present threat of terrorism by a spate of bombings and the uncovering of a plot for further terrorist attacks, which had shown that terrorists were expanding their theatre of operations all over the world. Singapore had been targeted by the Jemaah Islamiyah group, which had links with Al-Qaida. His Government had therefore joined other countries in listing the Jemaah Islamiyah as a terrorist organization under Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) in the belief that practical cooperation between countries was crucial if tangible progress was to be made with regard to counter-terrorism. For that reason, his country's intelligence agencies had been actively collaborating with their regional and foreign counterparts. On the domestic front, strict security had been enforced at all passenger and cargo entry points and patrols of the coastline had been stepped up. His country was participating in the United States Container Security Initiative and had established an air marshal unit. It had also increased defence measures at key installations and tightened controls on the movement, import and

export of strategic goods and technology in order to ensure that weapons did not fall into the hands of terrorists. Capabilities for dealing with biochemical terrorism were also being enhanced.

29. Since a multilateral approach was vital in dealing with terrorism, his Government had acceded to and ratified the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. It also supported global efforts to combat money-laundering and had long been an active member of the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering.

30. Addressing the global threat of terrorism called for a combination of vigilance and preventive measures, as well as a comprehensive approach by the whole world community. The tactics adopted by violent terrorists should not be tolerated, and efforts should be made to ensure the participation of moderate members of all races and religions in the fight against terrorism perpetrated by extremists. The key to combating terrorism in the long term was to promote understanding and tolerance between civilizations, reduce poverty and inequality and eradicate oppression.

31. His country supported the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. As progress on articles 2 bis and 18 of the draft comprehensive convention was vital, given the escalation of international terrorism over the past year, Member States should approach the issue in a greater spirit of compromise. The international community could not afford to remain idle in the face of the growing evil of terrorism.

32. **Mr. Fadaifard** (Islamic Republic of Iran), speaking on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC), said that terrorism was abhorrent wherever and by whoever it was committed. It was a worldwide phenomenon calling for a global, multifaceted, non-selective response, an attempt to identify its root causes and a concerted effort by the international community to address them. A unilateral, one-dimensional approach might neutralize some threats and bring psychological comfort, but it did not offer a serious answer to terrorism. Its perpetrators had to be brought to justice and terrorism itself had to be contained through a law-based counter-terrorism strategy endorsed by all members of the international community. The United Nations undoubtedly provided the best forum for concerted action and could ensure universal legitimacy for a long-term struggle against terrorism in conformity with its Charter and the norms and principles of international law and the relevant international instruments.

33. It was disappointing that the outstanding issues had not been resolved in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee (A/58/37) or in that of the Working Group (A/C.6/58/L.10). A comprehensive approach required a definition of terrorism, and failure to agree on such a definition would call in question the utility of the exercise. The proposal submitted by the member States of the OIC in annex IV to A/57/37 drew an essential distinction between terrorism and the struggle of peoples fighting foreign domination and occupation. Similarly, the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism was a useful example of a comprehensive, non-discriminatory, non-selective move against terrorism. The Committee should therefore carefully examine the relationship between the proposed comprehensive convention and existing conventions on the same subject and States should cooperate proactively in resolving the outstanding issues. Addressing the issue of international terrorism also required consideration of the threat of nuclear terrorism. While the most effective way of warding off such a threat clearly lay in the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the adoption of an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be a step in the right direction.

34. The States members of OIC were determined to combat all forms and manifestations of terrorism, including State terrorism, and to participate in multilateral global efforts to eradicate it. OIC likewise supported the convening of an international conference under the auspices of the United Nations to define terrorism, endorsed the Tunisian initiative concerning an international counter-terrorism code of conduct pending the conclusion of a comprehensive convention and appealed to all States Members of the United Nations to back that initiative.

35. **Mr. Lauber** (Switzerland) said that his Government condemned all forms of terrorism and considered that persons responsible for terrorist acts had to be prosecuted, sentenced or extradited. The 12

United Nations sectoral conventions on terrorism provided a legal framework for international cooperation in that field. Since 23 September 2003, his country had acceded to all those conventions, the two most recent of which evidenced the important role played by the General Assembly as the legislative organ of the United Nations.

36. The adoption of a comprehensive convention on terrorism would give the international community another effective instrument for combating that scourge and would complement the existing conventions, in that it would apply to specific terrorist acts not covered by them. It was therefore regrettable that no consensus had been reached on the matter thus far. His Government would participate actively in drafting a comprehensive convention in order to establish a precise definition of a terrorist act as a punishable crime and to lay down provisions guaranteeing efficient international legal cooperation. It would also endeavour to ensure that the convention balanced security considerations against aspects affecting freedom, since anti-terrorist measures adopted by national authorities could constitute a threat to the international community if they failed to respect the rule of law, human rights and the principles of international humanitarian law.

37. His Government would support the compromise on article 18 in the coordinator's text, provided that it was drafted in such a way as not to create a legal vacuum by excluding certain acts from the convention's scope. Since a convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be an important contribution to fighting one of the most deadly forms of terrorism, it was regrettable that no compromise had been found on the outstanding issues. His Government was therefore in favour of continuing negotiations on both conventions.

38. **Mr. Kalavenkata Rao** (India) said that measures to eliminate international terrorism had acquired special significance in recent years owing to recognition of the need for closer international cooperation in that sphere. His country had been in the forefront of combating terrorism for almost two decades. Its people had paid a heavy price for their struggle to vanquish terrorism that was challenging the established values of society, democracy and the law.

39. As the war on terrorism had begun to target its perpetrators' safe havens, their network had fanned out across the world with greater vigour and intensity. Indiscriminate terrorist attacks had shattered the peace and had even killed the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Sergio Vieira de Mello, and several of his colleagues who had been working to assist the people of Iraq and to reconstruct and restore the sovereignty of that country.

40. Terrorism was a common enemy of all peoples, beliefs and religions and inimical to peace and democracy. It undermined the very foundations of free and open societies. It constituted a global threat and hence there could be no compromise in the war against it. Yet some States still flouted the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (General Assembly resolution 49/60) by providing moral, material, financial and logistical support and arms to terrorists, whereas they should abide by the Declaration and the standards it set.

41. Although the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1456 (2003) had contributed to the promotion and enhancement of national legal frameworks to combat terrorism, those efforts needed to be supplemented by international standard-setting processes and, for that reason, the successful conclusion of a comprehensive convention on international terrorism and an international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism would be a significant contribution towards stamping out terrorism. The conflicting views on article 18 of the draft comprehensive convention could be reconciled in a spirit of mutual accommodation.

42. Although the global coalition against terrorism had worked well in some cases, it had failed to produce the desired results in others, because some of its members were still sponsoring cross-border terrorism, a case in point being that referred to in paragraph 22 of the Secretary-General's report (A/58/116). The Counter-Terrorism Committee should develop measures to ensure that Member States complied with their obligations under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1456 (2003). Credible multilateral instruments had to be developed, identifying States which contravened those resolutions. Multilateral mechanisms should be created to detect and block international financial flows to terrorists and terrorist organizations. A better international system of information exchange and intelligence-sharing needed to be devised in order to prevent terrorists evading capture simply by crossing national borders. Lastly, no

State should be allowed to profess partnership with the global coalition against terror while continuing to aid, abet and sponsor terrorism: condoning such double standards would merely mean increasing terrorism.

43. India attached the highest priority to the early conclusion of negotiations and the adoption of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. The Ad Hoc Committee should continue its work within the framework of the Working Group.

44. **Mr. Fazei** (Bahrain) said that international terrorism was a very grave problem and an obstacle to the well-being of mankind. Bahrain associated itself with all regional and international efforts to combat that scourge, which should never be linked to a particular culture, race or religion. Efforts must be made to understand its root causes and a distinction must be made between international terrorism and the struggle of peoples to free themselves from foreign occupation. International terrorism was not only a very dangerous phenomenon, but also had a severe impact on economic development.

45. Bahrain had become a party to a number of international and regional instruments to combat terrorism, and would become a party to the remaining international conventions as soon as the necessary domestic legal and constitutional measures had been taken. His country had also established a working group to coordinate measures to help Bahrain implement the provisions of the relevant Security Council resolutions. Bahrain had taken a number of measures to suppress the financing of terrorism, and had passed laws to combat money-laundering. Bahraini national associations were subjected to internal banking audits, especially when they received charitable contributions. There were also a number of provisions in the Criminal Code relating to crimes which were a threat to public order and might be terrorism-related. Bahrain would honour its commitments under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and was in the process of preparing its third report for the Counter-Terrorism Committee. All sections of the international community must be united to allow all necessary efforts to be made to combat terrorism on the basis of principles flowing from Shariah law and of the goals articulated in the Charter of the United Nations.

46. **Ms. Berri** (Lebanon) said that terrorism represented the most serious threat to international peace and security and the firm resolve of the international community to eradicate it permanently would depend on cooperation among States. The fact that the concept of terrorism had been abused by some States to describe their enemies had made the fight against terrorism selective and arbitrary, serving national interests and the aims of particular States, rather than being global in scope. Efforts to combat terrorism would remain ineffective unless they were based on a general consensus regarding a clear, universal, comprehensive, United Nations-promulgated definition of terrorism. An international conference on international terrorism should be held under the auspices of the United Nations in conformity with General Assembly resolutions 42/159 and 44/29 in order to prevent the application of double standards. The definition of terrorism should condemn State terrorism, which included foreign military occupation and/or the forced annexation of land or property, crimes against humanity and war crimes, as the worst form of terrorism. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 46/51, any definition had to draw a clear distinction between terrorism and the legitimate struggle of peoples under foreign occupation for their right to self-determination and independence, which was embodied in the Charter of the United Nations and in many General Assembly resolutions.

47. Lebanon reaffirmed its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms, and its readiness to cooperate with the United Nations in the suppression of international terrorism in accordance with the norms of international law and the established principles of national sovereignty. It was taking steps at the international, regional and national levels to fulfil its commitment to combat terrorism.

48. At the international level, Lebanon had signed and acceded to 10 of the 12 international legal instruments adopted by the United Nations and its specialized agencies, and was currently in the process of acceding to the remaining two, namely the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings and the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. As a member of Interpol, Lebanon furnished information concerning persons suspected of providing support for or financing terrorist acts. It had created a database for the collection of information on terrorist entities and had exchanged information with Interpol offices in

Member States so as to prevent those entities from being financed or offered facilities.

49. At the regional level, Lebanon had ratified the Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism, and had committed itself to cooperate with the European Union in combating terrorism. It had also signed a number of bilateral agreements, such as extradition treaties and agreements on mutual legal assistance, as a way of concerting efforts to combat terrorism.

50. At the national level, Lebanon had incorporated all the provisions and articles of the international conventions and protocols against terrorism to which it was a party in its national legislation and Penal Code. Laws and regulations expressly prevented the financing of terrorist activities. Under a law of 2001 a special board inquired into transactions suspected of constituting money-laundering, racketeering or other terrorist crimes. It had sought information from banks concerning accounts held by persons and entities included in Security Council lists with a view to freezing or confiscating them. Lebanon did not provide a safe haven for those who financed, directed, supported or committed acts of terrorism, especially those stipulated in Security Council resolution 1333 (2000), and did not permit them to enter its territory. Lebanon had submitted four reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

51. It was difficult for any human society to achieve a climate of security without seeking political, economic and social justice, and that was why Lebanon believed that approaches which were purely security-oriented or partial, phased solutions could not alone succeed in combating and eliminating terrorism. Lebanon was ready to cooperate with other States in formulating a comprehensive solution which struck at the root cause of terrorism, which now threatened the very essence of human civilization.

52. **Mr. Ayoob** (Afghanistan) said that the Afghan people had suffered greatly under the Taliban regime, which was known to have harboured international terrorist organizations. The terrorists had killed thousands of innocent Afghans, burned cities and villages, destroyed the economic infrastructure, and implemented a policy of ethnic cleansing. Events had shown that no nation could be immune from the threat of terrorism, and the international community must therefore assume a strong and sincere commitment to fight that threat to the end. The war on terrorism had to be fought on all fronts, including criminal activities such as arms smuggling, drug trafficking and money-laundering that financed terrorist organizations.

53. With the help of the United States and other friends in the international community, his Government was doing its best to establish stability in the country, implement a process of reconstruction, adopt a new constitution and pave the way for a general election. However, extremist and terrorist elements were sparing no efforts in challenging that process, because in the success of stability and reconstruction they saw their final defeat. Unfortunately, those dark and destructive forces continued find to support outside Afghanistan from extremists, fanatics and terrorist elements. The peace-loving people of Afghanistan and its partners in the war against terrorism were determined to overcome those challenges and resolved to prevent the country from falling back into anarchy under the rule of terrorists. The international community must not falter in helping Afghanistan to defeat the terrorists and their ideologies in Afghanistan itself and the region as a whole. It had to be made clear that there was zero tolerance of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. In Afghanistan's experience there was a direct connection between narcotics and terrorism, and it was in Afghanistan's absolute national interest to fight both. Afghanistan was fully committed to being a resilient partner for the international community in the fight against terrorism and drugs.

54. Afghanistan was a party to all 12 internationally binding conventions and protocols on combating terrorism, and had signed, acceded to or ratified all of them. It was important for all countries to coordinate measures to ensure effective implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), and Afghanistan was committed to implementing its obligations in that regard to the full. The United Nations had a major role to play in monitoring implementation of that resolution through the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

55. Afghanistan welcomed the role played by the Sixth Committee in mobilizing international action against the threat of international terrorism, and would continue to work within the United Nations and elsewhere not just to defeat that scourge but also to prevent it from reappearing. Strong and sincere cooperation between Governments at regional level was critically important in that regard. Afghanistan appreciated and fully supported the hard work of the

Ad Hoc Committee in negotiating a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism whose adoption would send a strong message that the international community was united and resolute in its efforts to eliminate terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. What was needed was the strongest possible legal regime against terrorism.

56. **Ms. Katungye** (Uganda) said that given the increasing porosity of inter-State borders and the relative ease with which terrorists were likely to acquire nuclear materials or weapons, the international community must summon up the political will to finalize the draft comprehensive convention on terrorism and the draft international convention on the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. Uganda had been horrified by the bomb attack on the United Nations headquarters in Baghdad, and paid tribute to those who had died. Such cowardly and wanton attacks should increase the resolve of the international community to eradicate terrorism in all its forms. Terrorism attacked the very foundation of law, order, human rights and the sanctity of life. It had therefore been encouraging to note the overwhelming response by Member States to the Counter-Terrorism Committee; only 16 Member States had still to submit a report to it on the steps they had taken to implement the provisions of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

57. Uganda had endeavoured to comply with the provisions of that resolution by, among other things, curbing the flow of arms and funds to terrorist cells with links to terrorists operating in certain parts of the country. Uganda was also implementing measures adopted under the Organization of African Unity Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism. Since 1988 the Ugandan people had suffered at the hands of terrorists such as the self-styled Lord's Resistance Army and Allied Democratic Forces, whose links to Al-Qaida had been proved beyond reasonable doubt by Uganda's security agencies. Terrorists must never be given safe haven and Uganda was increasing its capacity to deny it. Her country had ratified five of the major anti-terrorism conventions, signed five others and had Cabinet approval for ratifying the remainder. Ugandan national policy strongly condemned terrorism in whatever guise it appeared, whether it was "justified" as part of the fight for freedom or as the result of poverty. There could be no justification whatsoever for the use of indiscriminate force against civilians and infrastructure, but Uganda considered it prudent to identify those causes that lent themselves easily to abuse by the perpetrators and financiers of terrorism. It had found that poorer people were being drawn into joining terrorist acts with promises of money. Uganda therefore agreed with the view that in order to eradicate terrorism the international community needed to address its root causes, which included ignorance, religious fanaticism and intolerance, corruption, drug trafficking, transnational organized crime, the proliferation of small arms, human trafficking and money-laundering.

58. Uganda had adopted legislation to combat terrorism and bring terrorists to justice. There was a Joint Anti-Terrorism Task Force comprising key institutions and agencies and an Anti-Money-Laundering Committee which worked with financial institutions at the local, regional and international levels. Uganda froze funds, financial assets and economic resources identified as being connected to terrorist activities, and convicted all perpetrators found guilty of terrorist acts. Although there was no specific law against money-laundering, the country's central bank had issued anti-money-laundering guidelines to all financial institutions, which were required to report suspicious activities to it for further investigation. Although the guidelines were not enforceable in law, the central bank could apply broad supervisory powers and sanctions against any institution found to have been flouting them. The Ugandan police force was conducting nationwide campaigns to inform the general public about the global threat of terrorism. Measures were being taken to curb or prevent counterfeiting, fraud or the fraudulent use of identity and travel documents. Entry points into the country were staffed by trained policemen, immigration personnel and also the intelligence and security services.

59. Uganda supported the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response by the international community to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

60. *Ms. Ramoutar (Trinidad and Tobago), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.*

61. **Mr. Nesi** (Italy), speaking on behalf of the European Union, the acceding countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia, the associated

countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey, and, in addition, Liechtenstein, said that the European Union condemned all acts of terrorism and remained convinced that terrorism was never justifiable, irrespective of its motives and objectives, forms and manifestations. The European Union was strongly committed to defeating the threat of terrorism, having recourse to all pertinent means. At the same time, the European Union believed that the fight against terrorism should go hand in hand with respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law and, where applicable, international humanitarian law. The European Union reaffirmed its support for the central role of the United Nations in the fight against international terrorism everywhere. The 12 international United Nations conventions and protocols relating to various forms of international terrorism remained fundamental tools in the international community's effort to root out the phenomenon. The European Union attached high priority to universal participation in and full implementation of all those legal instruments, and urged States which had not yet done so to become parties to them.

62. The Security Council, in its resolution 1373 (2001), had noted with concern the close connection between international terrorism and, among other things, transnational organized crime, illicit drugs and money-laundering. In that respect, the European Union supported the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and its Terrorism Prevention Branch, as well as its activities under the Global Programme against Terrorism. In the declaration annexed to its resolution 1456 (2003), the Security Council had stressed the need for closer cooperation between the Counter-Terrorism Committee and regional and subregional organizations, and in that regard, the European Union reiterated its strong support for that Committee and its work. The European Union worked in close coordination with international, regional and subregional organizations and forums by supporting and participating in many of their counter-terrorism activities. A legal framework applicable in all member States of the European Union had ensured proper and timely implementation of all the relevant Security Council resolutions, and its effectiveness had been amplified by the fact that all acceding countries had voluntarily aligned themselves with it. A wide range of legal instruments had been adopted and was under constant review with the aim of strengthening the restrictive measures imposed by the United Nations, notably to combat the financing of terrorism. With the aim of providing substantive and effective support to third countries in implementing their commitments under Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), the European Union had adopted a strategy directed at offering relevant technical assistance to those countries. The European Union would continue to work closely with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, particularly with a view to establishing how such assistance could be targeted most effectively to facilitate implementation of the relevant resolutions.

63. The events of 11 September 2001 had prompted the United Nations to take unprecedented action, and its firm endeavour to eradicate terrorism continued unabated. The European Union reaffirmed its commitment to contribute to the debate which was aimed at overcoming the difficulties encountered in the efforts to draw up a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and a draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The European Union believed that negotiations on the provisions of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism on which agreement had been reached should not be re-opened, and it reaffirmed its readiness to contribute to reaching a consensus on the outstanding issues. As for the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism, he recalled that at the meeting of the European Council in June 2003, the European Union had reaffirmed its full awareness that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and means of delivery constituted an actual and serious threat to international peace and security. That being so, and given the risk posed by the fact that terrorist groups might gain possession of such weapons, the European Union strongly reaffirmed that the adoption of the draft international convention was an urgent necessity. Lastly, the European Union reiterated that it was ready to discuss the proposal to convene a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response of the international community to terrorism in all its forms and manifestations only after agreement had been reached on the text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism and on the understanding that such a conference could contribute to strengthening international cooperation against terrorism.

64. **Mr. Mustafa** (Sudan) reaffirmed his delegation's condemnation of international terrorism, which, whatever its form, could not be defended on political or ideological grounds and was incompatible with the letter and spirit of international law. It jeopardized innocent lives and threatened social and economic development. International terrorism, which could be found among all cultures and in all parts of the world, was best combated through international conventions and the promotion of understanding among religions and peoples. Any attempt to equate Islam with terrorism would have repercussions everywhere.

65. His delegation reaffirmed the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including the legality of resistance to foreign oppression or occupation and the condemnation of State-sponsored terrorism such as that in which Israel engaged. In that context, he stressed the need for an agreed international definition of terrorism and supported the calls for a high-level conference under United Nations auspices to elaborate a global convention against terrorism.

66. The Sudan's commitment to the fight against terrorism was evidenced by its ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, its signing of the International Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its promulgation in 2002 of a statute to combat terrorism. The Sudanese Government had also cooperated fully with the Counter-Terrorism Committee and had signed the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism, the Arab League Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism and the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism.

67. **Mr. Mwandembwa** (United Republic of Tanzania) said that it was discouraging to note that the number of acts of terror had increased rather than diminished over the past year, an egregious example being the attack on United Nations workers in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. It was therefore regrettable that the political will to remove the few remaining differences over the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism seemed to be lacking. Since the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210 and the Working Group of the Sixth Committee had both repeatedly failed to make any progress, the Sixth Committee should urgently explore other avenues. To abandon work on the two draft conventions would represent a serious blow to efforts to combat terrorism. The convening of a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations to formulate a joint organized response to terrorism should remain on the agenda.

68. His Government remained steadfastly committed to the war against terrorism, five years after the tragic bombing of the United States Embassy in Dar-es-Salaam. The Prevention of Terrorism Act had been passed in 2002 and his country had ratified two important regional conventions: the OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism and the Treaty on the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in Africa (Pelindaba Treaty). The latter, if strictly implemented, would bar terrorists from access to nuclear weapons and other radioactive devices throughout Africa. His country had also ratified 7 of the 12 major international instruments against terrorism and would shortly ratify the remaining 5.

69. Lastly, his delegation expressed concern about States which advised their citizens not to travel to his country because of possible terrorist attacks. Such advice had a highly adverse effect on his country. Although his delegation understood the rationale behind such advice, it requested such countries to have the courtesy to consult the Government beforehand, or at least provide it with prior information; that would, in addition, increase the possibility of averting attacks and arresting the would-be perpetrators. In that context, his delegation pledged continued cooperation with other countries to defeat terrorism.

70. **Ms. Tuğral** (Turkey) said her delegation aligned itself with the statement by the representative of Italy on behalf of the European Union, and expressed strong condemnation of the suicide bombing directed two days earlier against the Turkish Embassy in Baghdad, which had wounded two Iraqi policemen and one member of the Embassy staff. Terrorism posed a severe challenge to democracy, civil society and the rule of law. It undermined human rights and fundamental freedoms, especially the right to life, and the international community should adopt a coordinated response to it. In that context, her delegation reaffirmed its commitment to the global fight against terrorism and specifically to the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001). Her Government had submitted three timely reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee.

71. It was crucial that more States should become parties to the existing international conventions against terrorism and, in that context, she commended the invaluable work done by the Ad Hoc Committee established by General Assembly resolution 51/210, which was entrusted with the task of finalizing the two draft conventions against terrorism. With regard to the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, her delegation would favour a broad scope of application. Moreover, due consideration should be given to the possibility of building on existing instruments to find more efficient ways of combating terrorism. A comprehensive and effective instrument must be concluded without delay. There should be no safe haven for terrorists in any country, regardless of their motives or the type of crime committed.

72. **Mr. Zaki** (Pakistan) said that modern manifestations of terrorism had proved more deadly than their predecessors; the ability of terrorists to threaten society had heightened feelings of insecurity. Pakistan itself had been a victim of terrorism but had remained undeterred. It had enhanced security along its borders and further strengthened its legal framework. Hundreds of Al-Qaida terrorists had been captured in recent years. Pakistan had signed or ratified 11 out of the 12 international anti-terrorism conventions, as well the Convention of the Organization of the Islamic Conference on Combating International Terrorism and the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. It had submitted three reports to the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which, together with a number of other United Nations bodies, including the Sixth Committee, played an important role in the fight against terrorism. The Secretary-General's report (A/58/116) outlined measures taken by various States, and, in that context, he regretted that the representative of India had misquoted paragraph 22 of the report, which did not "conclude" but only "assumed" that the grenades in question had been made in Pakistan.

73. It was regrettable that there was no consensus on articles 18 and 2 bis of the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism or article 4 of the draft international convention for the suppression of acts of nuclear terrorism. The United Nations should adopt the following lines of action. First, it should reach a consensus on a legal definition of terrorism, including State terrorism, which would maintain a distinction between the right of peoples to self-determination and acts of terrorism. Second, given the inalienable right of peoples freely to determine their own destiny, it should help to resolve political disputes and situations in which Muslim people were — as in Palestine and Jammu and Kashmir — being suppressed. Third, the fight against terrorism should not be misused by States to justify prolongation of their domination of foreign lands or curtailment of freedom of speech. Fourth, efforts should be made to study the root causes of terrorism: political and social justice were indispensable if terrorism was to be effectively combated, as stated in a number of General Assembly resolutions, beginning with resolution 3034 (XXVII). The fight against terrorism should not lead to the violation of human rights. Moreover, efforts should be redoubled to provide technical assistance to States needing capacity-building to allow them to fight terrorism effectively.

74. Terrorism had no faith. No attempt should be made, therefore, to link terrorism with any particular religion. Instead, greater efforts should be made to foster inter-cultural understanding and cooperation. An international consensus on terrorism should be forged, since only thus could harmony and understanding be achieved. Issues of a systemic nature which provided breeding grounds and ready supporters for extremist causes — and ultimately terrorism — could no longer be ignored. Nor should other pressing problems, such as poverty, HIV/AIDS or social and economic justice, be overlooked.

75. **Mr. Gallegos Chiriboga** (Ecuador) endorsed the statement made by the representative of Peru on behalf of the Rio Group and said that, despite the extensive discussion of the two draft conventions against terrorism over the past few years, the international community continued to fall victim to deplorable terrorist attacks, including that suffered by the United Nations office in Baghdad two months earlier. It was therefore essential that those who wished for a peaceful solution to conflict should overcome their differences for the common good. His delegation categorically condemned terrorism in all its forms, although it agreed with the Secretary-General's view that, in combating terrorism, people's dignity and fundamental freedoms should not be compromised.

76. The United Nations had an essential role to play in combating terrorism. His delegation would therefore continue to support any initiative aimed at preventing, combating or eliminating an abominable phenomenon

which was usually aimed at innocent civilian victims. It would, in particular, support any effort to resolve the remaining disagreements over some aspects of the draft conventions against terrorism.

77. In 2003, article 13 of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had been incorporated into Ecuadorian law. Ecuador had also ratified the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and had proceeded with programmes to implement existing international instruments. It supported the implementation of Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) to which end it had developed a broad strategy involving the adoption of legislative, administrative, policing and other measures, and had taken the necessary steps in relation to the consolidated list prepared by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999). It also participated in regional efforts undertaken by the Organization of American States and the Andean Community.

78. The influence of factors such as poverty and intolerance should not be overlooked, since they had unfortunately been used as pretexts by those for whom violence and terror were a way of life. The international community should therefore embark on a global strategy to promote development, improve living conditions for the world's poorest people and cultivate dialogue in order to improve respect for human rights.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.